

Wenatchee
Study Session
Minutes
May 9, 2003

Commissioners present: Leo Gaeta, Mario Reyes, Becky Diaz, Edward Davila, Alice Castilleja-Lara, and Diana Avalos (Gabriel Banfi was present by speakerphone)

Commissioner absent: Yvonne Lopez-Morton
Staff present: Antonio Ginatta and Vita Echeverria

Kathy Chance

Managing Director, WA State Office of Trade and Economic Development. Handed out information packets to the commissioners regarding small business assistance. Stated that if anyone needed to have a workshop in their communities they could contact the agency and set it up. The workshops could also be done in Spanish because they would be able to have interpreters available for the sessions.

Antonio asked her who her target audience is, and Kathy replied that it is anyone who anyone who needs information about small business loans.

Kathy stated that they have bilingual staff available and that want to make sure people know of the different resources available, how to handle claims, and how they can offer training to small businesses.

Bill Joplin

Assistant Director, WA State General Administration, Office of State Procurement Spoke about the need for improvement of minority participation in state business and about trading contracts. Currently they are trying to find out what kind of services OMWBE has available. They also ask themselves if their conferences are targeting the right type of small businesses? One of the problems facing minority businesses is their lack of access to state and local businesses. He also brought up the small work rosters. He said if they have to they could find people to do an entire workshop in Spanish.

Bill stated that OSP could organize packets and have them available at the CHA public meetings. They could also have an agency representative available to review the packets with individuals from the public.

Commissioner Diaz asked that if GA were invited to set up a small business workshop in their communities if they would take part and attend. Bill stated that a representative from OSP would be available for a community meeting.

Bill also stated that they currently have a database that identifies whether the business at the workshop is a minority- or woman-owned business. The only

way to get that type of information is by self-identifying, just as it is done on a job application.

Antonio Ginatta- Small Business Conference

Announced the two dates proposed for the Minority Business Conference; June 27th or June 30th 2003 at the North Seattle Community College from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. All commissioners will send a list of small businesses from their community to the CHA office to be added to the master invite list. Commissioners will also need to take a look at the qualifications for small businesses before they put them on the list. It was decided that Antonio, Becky Diaz, Alice Castilleja-Lara and Velma would be having on going conference calls to continue the discussions for the planning of the conference.

Committee Reports

Antonio Ginatta - Personnel Committee:

Announced that three names from Pasco have been selected and were recommended to the Governor's office. The Governor's office has been working on the interviewing and will notify us when one has been selected. Right now we are seeking to get candidates from throughout all the state and we should try to fill the positions that are going to be vacant. When we limit our search to particular areas, we are not getting a large number of qualified candidates. All the exiting commissioners should get referral names of possible candidates or applications to the commission office as soon as possible. Becky and Antonio will work on getting a PSA's done for a commercial.

Edward Davila – Ad-hoc committee on improving attendance at meetings: He stated that the list that had already been creating was a good starting point and that it would serves a useful tool for commissioners to follow. By May 17th both he and Mario are going to prepare details of their planning process. Michelle Danley from the Governor's office stated that they should think about getting the Unions involved in increasing attendance. Ed mentioned that they could get the word out through the media.

Alice Castilleja-Lara: Our media contacts get our information but they are not doing a good job at getting the information out.

Education Committee: Alice spoke about the METT letter and the issues that have been place on the table.

OSPI has thought about giving each student a number that will follow them throughout the state and that's possibly the only way to keep track of student drop out rates. Diana is appointed the new chair of this committee and will call Vita to schedule a conference call for the Education Committee.

Emerging Issues Committee:

CHA needs to take a good look at reorganizing the meetings for the committees so that we can get the issues worked out. If each committee comes up with dates to have conference calls for their meeting then the Chair of each committee will get the dates to Vita so that there will be a regular schedule set.

Commissioner Updates

Alice Castilleja-Lara spoke about the Education Plan for Hispanic Youth and citizenship classes for high schools students.

Becky Diaz mentioned the work that she is doing with the border and that she is continuing to work with the Computer Wizards project. She also said that they needed to figure out what to do for the small business owners don't even know how to use their computers.

Diana Avalos: has been partnering with the Vancouver Police Department in working with local Hispanic youth. Vancouver will be having a Latino Festival in September. The local community college will be hosting a multicultural recruitment fair so they can get students to visit their campus. Yesterday she attended the first meeting for the planning of the fall conference.

Edward Davila helped organize a new group call the Latina Education Advisory Board and they distributed over 5,0000 flyers about a local levy which ended up passing. Mentioned that they have partnered up with La Liga Hispana.

Alice Castilleja-Lara announced that there will be a HAAP (Hispanic Academic Achievers' Program) banquet coming up and the Governor has been invited and will be attending. The Cinco de Mayo event was a success, and the mayor made an official declaration of the date. She also spoke about the police chief recruitment and how they are restarting the search. The City is now using a private agency to work on the recruitment process. On behalf of the Commission she attended the National Migrant Conference.

Gabriel Banfi spoke about the ELLF (Eastside Latino Leadership Forum). For the first time in history of his area, the community has a group (ELLF) that is active and energetic. Gabriel also attended the local IMAGE Conference.

Leo Gaeta is working on the issue of the Mattawa childcare providers, about which he has attended various meetings. He met with the DSHS community service office that will be attempting to retrieve overpayments. Childcare providers will have monitoring visits in which they are going to have to show a Social Security card and which will require them to have current I.D. He has also been working with non-profit agencies in Royal City.

Election of officers: We need to make an edit to the administrative policies from even to odd. The Commission will make a motion at the public meeting.

Standardizing time for study Sessions: Antonio said that time for study sessions needed to be standardized to avoid short-changing the time needed to do Commission business. He suggested 3:00 – 6:00 pm.
A motion needs to be made to amend the times for study sessions.

Leo or Antonio will contact the commissioners two weeks before a meeting to remind them about having their reports ready.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.